



Dear Area Resident:

A comprehensive traffic project has been underway in the area for the past 18 months. The study area runs from I-215 to Fort Union and from 2300 East to Highland Drive, excluding Blackstone Road. At this time, the city council has come up with a proposal and is seeking resident feedback. The purpose of this letter is to provide background on the project, details of the proposal and instructions on when and how to comment.

Background

This project came about due to efforts of area residents. The problems presented included excessive volume on 6675 S. and Rolling Knolls, difficult access to Highland via Rolling Knolls, failed area stop signs, and safety concerns about the Bella Vista Elementary drop-off/pick-up zone. As a result, options from closures to striping have been explored during the past 18 months including a comprehensive effort by the citizen's traffic committee. At this point, the city council has synthesized what we believe may be a good compromise for the citizens to consider. Other options are costly and likely ineffective.

The Proposal

The elements of the proposal are as follows:

1. Find a second drop-off/pick-up point for Bella Vista Elementary
 - This would likely improve the safety of the access point, decrease volumes in front of Bella Vista, and decrease traffic at the Fort Union/Nye intersection.
2. Turn 6675 S. into a one-way street heading east-bound and paint parking and bike lanes
 - This would decrease traffic volumes on Rolling Knolls and Nye and encourage appropriate traffic patterns for Bella Vista parents living east and south of Bella Vista while still allowing access for parents living west.
 - This would likely decrease the volume of traffic entering Highland from Rolling Knolls during the am peak, thus improving wait times on Highland and discouraging dangerous queuing behavior.
3. Accept the UDOT timeframe of 2014 to upgrade the I-215 intersection at Highland. This project has already been approved and funding sources identified.
 - This upgrade has been designed to dramatically improve wait times on Highland and improve queuing (allow more people from Rolling Knolls to enter and exit safely).
4. Consider new traffic calming measures
 - a. Install two new crosswalks at Rolling Knolls/2075 E. and Rolling Knolls/Nye
 - b. Install 8' traffic circles at Rolling Knolls/2075 E. and Rolling Knolls/Nye
 - c. Paint bike/pedestrian lanes on Rolling Knolls and Nye

- d. Remove stop signs at Rolling Knolls/2075 E., Rolling Knolls/Nye, Nye/Nye Circle and Nye/Luna.

This project has been thoroughly examined. The issues are complex and interrelated, and no one solution is perfect or has universal appeal. The council believes that this proposal does the best to solve problems without causing additional, significant detriments. Solutions that are no longer under consideration include road closures because they move problems to other area locations, traffic lights at Fort Union/Nye and Rolling Knolls/Highland either because they would violate federal road standards or because more comprehensive solutions are forthcoming, increased policing of the area because it is unsustainable in the quantities needed to have an impact, installing sidewalks on 6675 S. due to resident resistance and cost, and limiting turns into or out of Rolling Knolls to right hand only and/or painting “Do Not Block” stripes across Highland at Rolling Knolls because both would significantly aggravate other problems.

The proposal is meant to be comprehensive. However, proposal elements are related in different ways. For example, the traffic calming measures would not be very effective at reducing traffic volume if 6675 S. was not made a one-way street but the opposite scenario may not be true.

Timeline and Making Comments

The council will be taking public comment on this proposal until Sept. 13th. A formal public comment session is scheduled for Sept. 6th at 7:00pm at City Hall. However, residents are encouraged to contact city leaders anytime via email or phone, specifically, at nomer@ch.utah.gov or 801-733-9549. On Sept. 13th, the council will issue a decision on the proposal as well as a general timeline line for completion if appropriate.

Thank you to everyone, especially members of the traffic committee, for the hard work done on behalf of this project. It truly has been a community effort.

Sincerely,

Nicole Omer
Councilwoman, District 3, Cottonwood Heights City